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# Howdy Ags!

It's bowl time, Aggies! Nothing like "Walkin' in Memphis" for the holidays. Inside this issue you'll find a preview of the Liberty Bowl the Aggies will be playing in. There are some pretty cool story lines with Coach Sumlin facing his former assistant coach, Dana Holgorsen, and the West Virginia Mountaineers. It should be an exciting game with both teams possessing high-powered offenses that like to throw the ball around. Get ready for a long game that could come down to the final possession.

I want to congratulate our women's soccer team on an amazing season. Since our last issue, they won back-to-back SEC regular season conference championships, back-to-back SEC Tournament championships and earned the program's first trip to The College Cup! Way to go, ladies; we are so proud of you!

Both of our basketball teams are in full swing now. The women have jumped out to a 10-0 record and a number four national ranking with a big win over Duke at home, while the men have had a great start as well. With more talent and excitement on the floor, they have had two last-second wins this season and are a lot of fun to watch.

I got to sit down with women's basketball star, Courtney Walker, and newcomer, Avery Johnson, Jr. from the men's program, and you will enjoy hearing their stories inside this issue. Both programs have the talent and ability to do great things this season; let's all get out and make Reed Arena a tough place to play.

As of press time, the Aggies are still in search of a defensive coordinator and a wide receivers coach. The coaching carousel has begun all around college football. We wish Coach Snyder good luck moving forward and thank him for everything he did for our program. We also congratulate Coach Beatty on his new gig; we are proud of him and thank him for all he did for Texas A&M.

Thanks to all of our advertisers and readers for another great year. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and lets BTHOWestvirginia!

Gig'em Ags!

*Rob '88*



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# Aggieland

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## devil slayer...

Alex Caruso flies through the air for a slam dunk that ignited the crowd and propelled the Aggies to a 72-71 win over Arizona State. Trailing by 13 points in the second half, Caruso put the team on his back, scoring a season high 23 points in 9 of 11 shots.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.



snapshot



## the thrill of victory & the agony of defeat...

Bianca Brinson celebrates Kelley Monogue's corner kick goal vs. Notre Dame as the goal keeper shows her frustration. The Ags defeated the Irish 2-1 in the Sweet 16 and went on to defeat Penn State in the next round. The ladies advanced to the program's first Final Four College Cup!

Photo by Rob Havens '88.













## No. 1 in the pool...

Junior Ashley McGregor exhibits her sheer determination to win as she cuts through the water in the 200 breast. McGregor won the event as well as the 200 butterfly in the Aggies' final meet of the fall against Rice. The Texas A&M women's swimming and dive team had a perfect record this fall and are ranked as the number one team in the nation. Photo by Rob Havens '88.



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# billyliucci's TOP 44 IN '15

## Quarterbacks (2)

1	Kyler Murray	Allen	6-0	185
	Committed to Texas A&M			
2	Jarrett Stidham	Stephenville	6-3	190
	Committed to Texas Tech			


## Running Backs (9)

1	Rodney Anderson	Katy	6-0	205
	Committed to Oklahoma			
2	Ronald Jones	McKinney North	6-0	185
	Committed to OSU			
3	Chris Warren	Rockwall	6-2	210
	TEX, Ark, UGA			
4	Jay Bradford	Splendora	5-10	190
	Committed to Texas A&M			
5	Corey Dauphine	PA Memorial	5-10	175
	Committed to TTU			
6	Soso Jamabo	Piano West	6-3	200
	TEX, A&M, OU			
7	Aca'Cedric Ware	Cedar Hill	6-0	200
	Committed to USC			
8	Tyreik Gray	Episcopal	5-11	180
	BU, Cal, OU			
9	Tristan Houston	North Shore	6-0	195
	Committed to Texas			

## Wide Receivers (4)

1	DaMarkus Lodge	Cedar Hill	6-2	190
	A&M, BU, OU, Miss, Ctm			
2	Kemah Siverand	Cy Ridge	6-0	185
	Committed to Texas A&M			
3	Chad President	Temple	6-2	180
	Committed to Baylor			
4	Carlos Strickland	Skyline	6-5	200
	Committed to Texas Tech			


## Linebackers (3)

1	Malik Jefferson	Poteet	6-2	210
	A&M, Bama, TEX, LSU			
2	Richard Moore	Cedar Hill	6-0	205
	A&M, BU, Miss			
3	Cameron Townsend	Ridge Point	6-0	195
	Committed to Texas			


## Athlete (2)

1	J.W. Ketchum	Lamar	6-0	180
	Committed to Baylor			
2	Louis Brown	Burton	6-6	210
	Committed to Texas			



## Tight End (1)

1	Jordan Davis	Clear Lake	6-4	240
	Committed to Texas A&M			






## Defensive Ends (1)

1	James Lockhart	Ennis	6-3	240
	Committed to Texas A&M			




## Cornerbacks (6)

1	Kendall Sheffield	FB Marshall	6-0	175
	A&M, Bama, TEX			
2	Holton Hill	Lamar	6-1	180
	TEX, A&M, BU, LSU			
3	Kris Boyd	Gilmer	6-0	175
	A&M, TEX, Bama, FSU, BU			
4	Roney Elam	Newton	6-3	170
	Committed to Texas A&M			
5	P.J. Mbanasor	Hendrickson	6-2	185
	Committed to Oklahoma			
6	Jaylon Lane	Nacogdoches	6-1	185
	A&M, OU, Texas			




## Safeties (5)

1	Deonte Thompson	West Orange-Stark	6-2	175
	Committed to Alabama			
2	Larry Pryor	Sulphur Springs	6-2	203
	Committed to Texas A&M			
3	Justin Dunning	Whitehouse	6-4	205
	Committed to Texas A&M			
4	Deshon Elliott	Rockwall-Heath	6-1	200
	Committed to Texas			
5	Prentice McKinney	South Oak Cliff	6-2	180
	Committed to Norte Dame			

## Defensive Tackles (4)

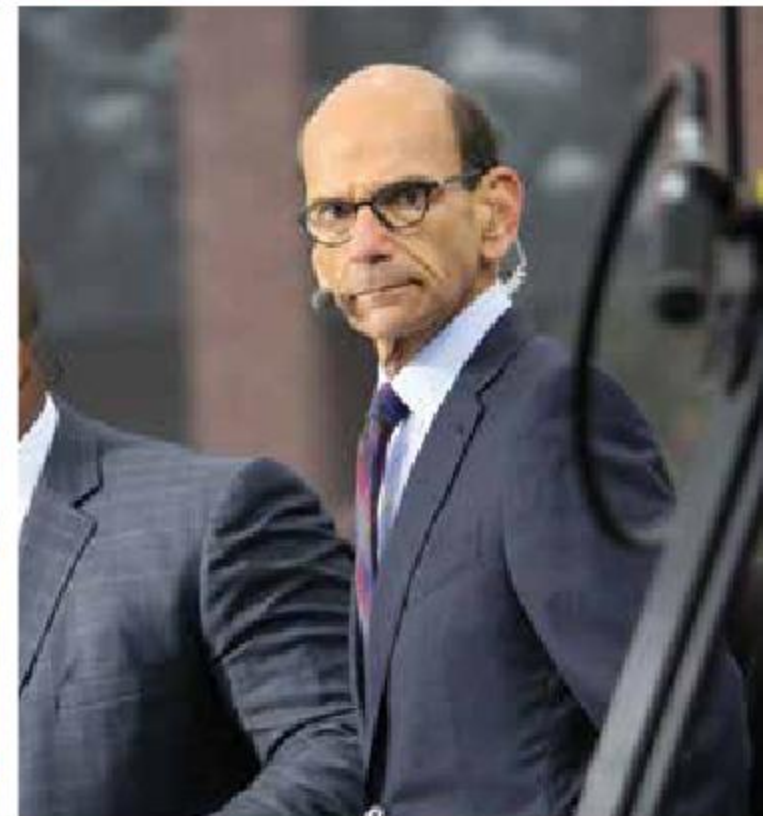
1	Daylon Mack	Gladewater	6-1	305
	Committed to Texas A&M			
2	Darrion Daniels	Bishop Dunne	6-3	290
	BU, OU, A&M			
3	Kingsley Keke	George Ranch	6-4	290
	Committed to Texas A&M			
4	Du'Vonte Lampkin	Cy Falls	6-4	290
	Committed to Texas			

## Offensive Linemen (7)

1	Trevor Elbert	Rockwall-Heath	6-5	280
	Committed to Texas A&M			
2	Maea Teuhema	Keller	6-5	330
	Committed to LSU			
3	Bobby Evans	Allen	6-4	240
	Committed to Oklahoma			
4	Toby Weathersby	Westfield	6-4	280
	Committed to Texas			
5	Connor Lanfear	Hays	6-5	287
	Committed to Texas A&M			
6	Patrick Vahe	Eules Trinity	6-3	290
	Committed to Texas			
7	Keaton Sutherland	Marcus	6-5	260
	Committed to Texas A&M			

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## scoreboard



**[soccer]** The Aggie Soccer team had their best season in program history, starting with a very successful regular season that culminated in an SEC championship. The ladies went on to win the SEC Tournament Championship, giving them a double back-to-back. The Aggies earned a one seed and won four rounds in the NCAA Tournament over Houston Baptist, Arizona, Notre Dame and Penn State. For the first time in school history, the Aggies made it to the Final Four College Cup. They came up just short, losing to Virginia 3-1 in the National Semi-finals. Congrats to these ladies on an amazing run! We are so proud of them!



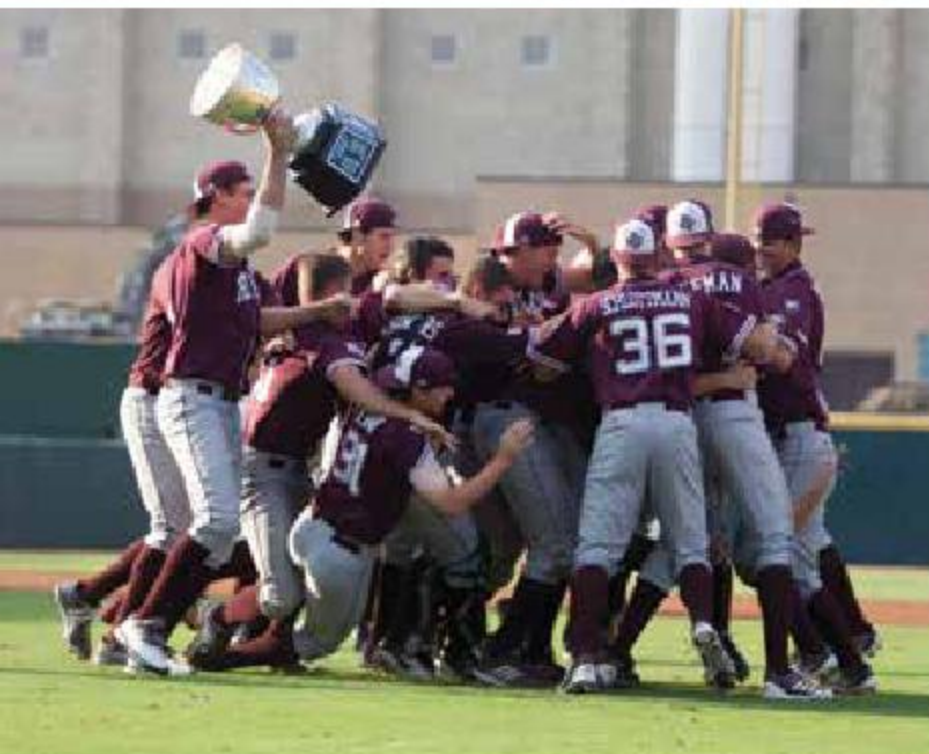


## scoreboard



**[women's swimming & diving]** The women wrapped up the fall with a perfect 5-0 meet record. They are currently ranked as the number one team in the country. The highlight of the semester was a big win over the University of Texas, who was ranked number two in the nation. The Aggies beat them in their own pool in Austin. The sky is the limit for this team.

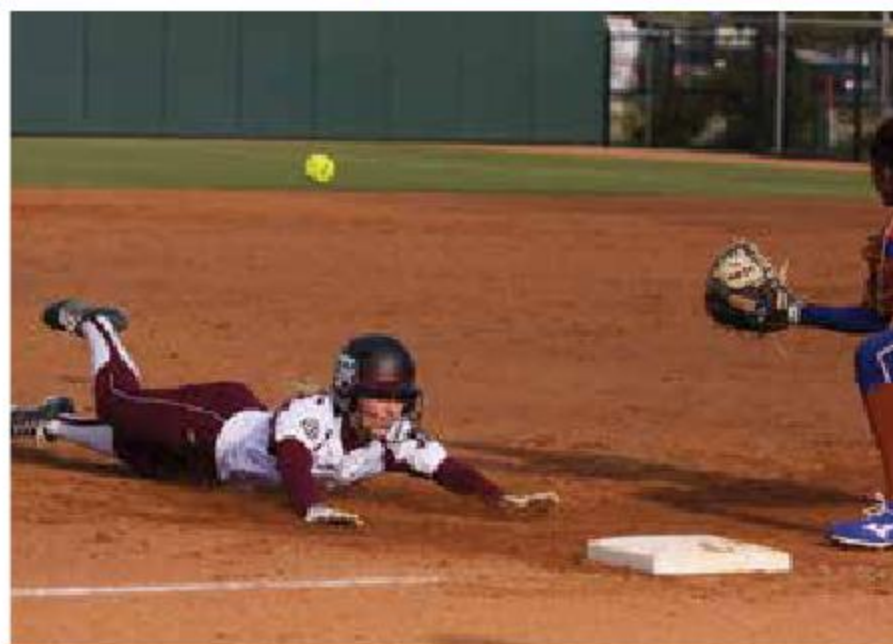
**[equestrian]** Texas A&M completed the fall portion of their schedule with a big win against number five Georgia. It was the ladies' first SEC victory of the season. Georgia is the reigning National Champion, and the Ags stepped up to the challenge to beat them 11-7 here in Aggieland. The Ags return to action January 7th against New Mexico State.



**[baseball]** The boys of summer competed in their annual fall competition for the coveted Omaha Cup. In a three game sweep, the Farmers defeated the Plowboys and now have bragging rights for the season. Coach Childress and his staff also signed a top-ten signing class of twelve players that we look forward to seeing at Olsen very soon.



**[softball]** Aggie softball wrapped up their fall exhibition schedule with their annual Maroon and White series. The white team won the series 2-1. Coach Evans was pleased with the way both teams competed. The Ags were a perfect 8-0 during the fall and hoped to pick up right where they left off in February.



**[men's swimming & diving]** Texas A&M won three meets this fall and are excited about a freshman class that is already contributing to the team. Tyler Henschel, Brock Bonetti and Mauro Castillo shined in the Aggies' fourth meet, proving that although young, they are ready to help the team succeed. Henschel earned an individual win on the platform dive.





scoreboard

**[volleyball]** The Aggies finished the regular season with a come-from-behind victory over Ole Miss. It was the sixth straight win for our ladies and gave them a 21-8 record overall and a 13-5 record in SEC play. The Ags earned an at-large bid into the NCAA tourney against Arizona State. Unfortunately, the team was eliminated in the first round in a four-set match. The team lost only one senior and will look to continue the momentum gained this year to battle for a conference championship next year.



**[women's basketball]** The number four ranked Aggies are on a ten-game winning streak to start the season, with a huge win over perennial power Duke after trailing by fifteen points in the second half. This team is led by Courtney Walker, Courtney Williams and Jordan Jones. Not backing down from anyone, this team is working hard to win another National Championship.




**[men's basketball]** The men's basketball team has had a successful start to the '14-'15 season, beginning with the NCAA decisions that allowed Danuel House and Tonny Trocha-Morelos to play. Both student-athletes joined the team in Puerto Rico for the Ags' final game of the tournament. The Aggies opened the season with a 6-2 record, including two last-second victories over Sam Houston State and Arizona State. This team has the talent to make some waves this year if they can put everything together.







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# FOOTBALL REWIND

AGGIES WRAP UP REGULAR SEASON





# [ GAME 9: **A&M 21**, ULM 16 ]



## ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



After the 59-0 loss to Alabama, Coach Sumlin decided to open up competition at several positions, including quarterback. He used the bye week to evaluate young talent and allow Kyle Allen to battle for the starting job. Going into the ULM game, the coaching staff made several changes. Not only did the personnel on the field look different, but the Aggies donned throwback uniforms and helmets to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 1939 National Championship team. With the new look came an announcement an hour before the game that Kenny Hill had been suspended and would not be suiting out. With the decision made to start Kyle Allen, the offense took the field with a new, heavy set package designed to help get the running game going. Brandon Williams and Tra Carson both scored on the ground, and Speedy Noil made the play of the day on a 39-yard circus catch that gave the Aggies twenty-one points in the first half. Myles Garrett led the defense with 3.5 sacks, breaking the freshman SEC record for most sacks in a season. The defense made a huge stop at the end of the game and the Aggies came out with a close 21-16 win.



## [ GAME 10: AUBURN 38, **A&M 41** ]



### ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



Going into the Auburn game, few people outside the locker room believed the Aggies stood a chance of defeating the number three team in the nation. After a lackluster performance against ULM, the Tigers were anxiously awaiting the struggling Aggies. However, when the team took the field, there was an excitement and energy that we hadn't seen before. Texas A&M came out and scored two touchdowns on long passes of sixty and thirty-six yards and stunned both the fans and the Auburn team that had expected to roll over the maroon and white. The Tigers did answer, but with the Aggies up 28-17 right before the half, Myles Garrett blocked a field goal attempt and Deshazor Everett scooped it up and returned it sixty-five yards for a touchdown. Auburn battled back in the second half and looked like they would win, but two late fumbles and recoveries by Armani Watts and Alonzo Williams sealed the victory and the biggest upset of the season.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AGGIE ATHLETICS



## [ GAME 11: MISSOURI 34, A&M 27 ]



### ▲ PHOTO OF THE GAME



vs.



Expectations going into the Missouri game were high after the big win against Auburn. The Ags were taking on a Mizzou team that had been struggling offensively, but they were coming to Kyle with an SEC Eastern Division title within their grasp. On a cold and rainy night, the teams battled back and forth until the Tigers went off for twenty-eight points in the third quarter and looked unstoppable. The Aggies didn't give up, though, and had an opportunity to tie the game with less than three minutes remaining and staring into the end zone on fourth and one. Unfortunately, Cam Clear was taken down after receiving the ball on the four yard line, ending the Ags' hope of tying the game. Kyle Allen threw for 237 yards and three touchdowns in the game. The Aggie defense couldn't stop Russell Hansbrough, who ran for almost 200 yards. With Myles Garrett sidelined with an injury, Texas A&M struggled to put any pressure on Maty Maulk. The Tigers gained 335 yards on the ground and another 252 in the air, while the Ags had 341 total yards for the game.



## [ GAME 12: LSU 23, A&M 17 ]



### ▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



vs.



The Aggies returned to Kyle Field on Thanksgiving night against a new rival in the LSU Tigers. They are the only SEC West Division foe that the Ags have not beaten since joining the conference. Trey Williams got the Aggies on the scoreboard first as he ran up the middle and raced forty-one yards to paydirt, giving the Ags a 7-0 lead. The Tigers bounced back and scored twenty unanswered points as the Aggie D couldn't stop the LSU run game. Finally, in the 4th quarter, A&M got things going offensively. Josh Lambo made a 34-yard field goal to draw the Ags within ten, and then Kyle Allen connected with Speedy Noil in the end zone with an amazing catch. The game ended for the Aggies on a blown offsides call that resulted in an interception, costing the Ags their final drive and a chance to win the game.





VS.



# LIBERTY BOWL PREVIEW

**The Aggies will take on the** West Virginia Mountaineers on Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 1pm CST in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl in Memphis, TN. This will be the first time the two storied programs have faced off on the gridiron. However, it won't be the first time for the coaches to share the same field. Coach Dana Holgorsen was Coach Sumlin's offensive coordinator and quarterback

coach when the two were at Houston. When Holgorsen became head coach at WVU, our own Jake Spavital was his quarterback coach in 2012. So, to say the three men are familiar with each other would be the understatement of the year.

This game will be a challenge for both coaching staffs as they prepare to scheme

against a team that runs a similar offense and has first-hand knowledge of what the other play caller likes to do. Stat-wise West Virginia has the sixth best passing offense in the nation, while A&M has dropped during the course of the season to number twelve in the same category.

One of the unknowns at this point is who will be playing quarterback when the Mountaineers take the field. According to reports, senior starter Clint Trickett suffered a concussion in the Kansas State game, which was his third concussion in a thirteen-month period dating back to last season. Sophomore Skyler Howard took over for him and had his first career start when the Mountaineers took on the Iowa State Cyclones in the final game of the regular season.

The West Virginia offensive line has given up twenty-eight sacks this year. If the Aggies hope to slow down their up-tempo air raid attack, Myles Garrett and company will need to put pressure on the quarterback and force him into making mistakes. WVU's top receiver is senior Kevin White, who has accumulated over 1,300 yards in receiving this year.





He averages almost thirteen yards per catch and has scored nine touchdowns this season. They are prone to make turnovers, with a total of twenty-eight so far, while only taking the ball away from opponents thirteen times.

On the ground, Rushel Shell and Wendell Smallwood are both very talented backs that can put up big yards. West Virginia's offense is very balanced and can beat you on the ground or in the air. Shell ran for 146 yards in his last game, and if Howard is called on to lead their offense, Holgersen may rely more on the ground game to help the young quarterback.

On the other side of the ball, the Ags can take advantage of a pass defense that ranks sixty-third in the country. If Kyle Allen is on his game, he should be able to put up big yards against the Mountaineers' suspect secondary. Texas A&M will need to contain defensive end Shaquille Riddick, who earlier this year was honored with the Walter Camp National Player of the Week Award. Fortunately for the Aggies, WVU is ranked sixty-fifth against the run. Much

like the Aggies, this team is designed to try and outscore you in a track meet type of game.

If the Mountaineers can get the ball on the Aggies' side of the fifty, they are almost guaranteed three points as sophomore Josh Lambert leads the nation in field goals made. One of three Lou Groza Award finalists, the Garland, Texas product has made four field goals from fifty yards or more, including a 55-yarder. He has two game-winning field goals this season, with a fifty-five yard kick as time expired versus Texas Tech that clinched their come-from-behind win.

With both teams having three weeks to prepare, it will be interesting to see what changes each team makes to give the other side something they don't expect. The match-up on defense should allow the Aggies to score a lot of points. If our defense can put pressure on the WVU quarterback, force some turnovers, and contain the Mountaineer running game, the Ags should bring home their eighth win of the year and generate some momentum for next season.



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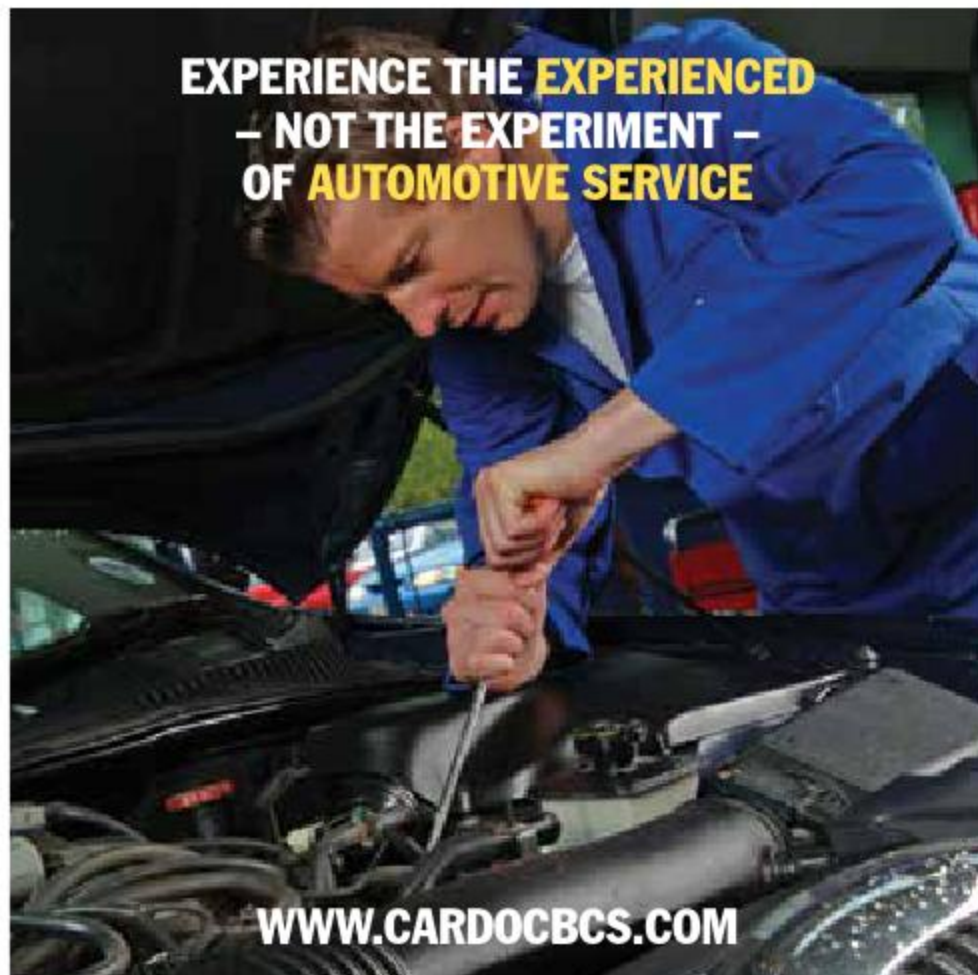
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## AVERY JOHNSON JR. WANTED BIG SCHOOL & BIG ENVIRONMENT

**Tell me about growing up as the son of an NBA player and coach (Avery Johnson).**

It was always a cool thing. I didn't realize until I got older and people started talking about me being his son that he was in the NBA and a high-level player and coach. There were always some positives and negatives, but the positives always outweighed the negatives. It was kind of cool growing up being in NBA locker rooms and NBA environments; something that a kid who plays basketball always dreams of.



**Did you travel a lot as a child?**

I was born in Houston. My dad was with the Rockets, and then he went to the Spurs. So we moved around a few places. I lived in Denver, Oakland, Dallas, and Houston, and then, when he was coaching, I stayed here in Texas. I moved around a few places and traveled on road trips with the teams when I was little. More recently, when I was older, I appreciated it more because I could remember where I traveled; being in the locker rooms, interacting with the players, and watching practices was pretty amazing.

**Talk about coming to A&M and why you thought this would be a good place for you.**

Yeah, really and truly, at the beginning of the year they [A&M] had signed Alex Robinson, and I think they had a kid from France they were looking at, so there weren't really any spots. They kept coming to West (Plano) to watch Tyler (Davis) and DJ (Hogg). I just talked to the

coach as friends, not really as recruiting, and stuff happened with their team and I started playing well in high school and the playoffs. I started getting on everyone's radar, so he called me in for a visit and it just took off after that. I didn't think I was going to come here until later in the year. Some other schools, like SMU and Maryland, were looking at me, and I was just planning to go to one of those schools. But A&M came in and offered me the opportunity and I felt like I should take it. My visit went great, so I thought I should just come here. It's perfect; everything else is just history.

**People have said you were instrumental in getting next year's recruiting class to come here. Can you talk a little bit about that?**

You know, I've known DJ and Tyler for a long time. I played with them on the Titans last summer. I played with DJ at Plano West and Tyler and I are pretty good friends. I think that helped a lot. They weren't really interested in A&M and I just wanted to change their mind



set; before even talking about their recruiting, I just wanted to change their mindset about A&M. They had had some down years, but the other schools they had looked at, like Baylor, had also had some down years. Baylor had some down years at the beginning when Scott Drew was there, and then, in the fourth year, it took off. You know, this is Coach Kennedy's fourth year. I just had to try and change their mindset before the recruiting tactics. I just wanted to be a friend. You know, everyone says I'm the reason they came. Obviously, that was a big factor, but it's their lives and their basketball careers; they're not just going to come for one player. Obviously, it helps a lot that I'm one of their closest friends; that just led to Eli (Elijah Thomas) and Admon (Gilder) because they're also good friends with them. One thing led to the next. I'm happy I could help them be on the court again. It's really cool that they are coming.

**What was it about Texas A&M that made you believe it would be the place for you?**

Really, just being close to home. I wanted to be close to my dad so he could come

in and help work out and watch a little film. Just being close to my family is always a big factor. And the big college environment; I transferred from a small private school to a big public school at Plano West, and I just wanted to keep that big school, big football, big basketball atmosphere that I had in high school. I didn't want to go to a small school just so I could start my freshman year. You know, it was about playing a lot, but I knew freshman year that I might not get as many minutes, which is fine; you just have to earn your minutes, build your way up in the ranks. A small school might just hand you something because it's a small school that plays lesser competition, but I wanted to come to bigger school; you know, a big conference, just a big school atmosphere.

**How has it been so far?**

It's been great so far. My minutes are kind of erratic, but it's going to be like that when you have Alex Caruso, a potential NBA point guard, and Alex Robinson, who is a high level recruit. My minutes are hit and miss, but I'm loving everything, trying to be a great teammate, and when I get in there, I try

not to have any negative minutes. The minutes I've gotten in, I've done well; so far, that's what they've told me. So, I'm just going to keep taking my minutes—five, ten, fifteen minutes, two minutes—whatever I can get to build my way up in the ranks. Hopefully, by next year when DJ and Tyler come, I can get a few more minutes and build my way up so that I can have a successful career during my junior and senior years and try to make a stronger name for myself.

**How old were you when you were able to beat your dad in one-on-one?**

When he started playing me competitively? People think he may not be good; well, he's still got moves. It's just the stamina and stuff. In middle school he probably let me win, but in ninth or tenth grade, he couldn't keep up with me. For sure, I win if we play now. We played this summer and it was hard for him. But in middle school, he'd get me every time. If you think about it, when I was in middle school in 2006, he had just retired in 2004; he's not just going to lose it that quickly.







# COURTNEY WALKER

TALKS ABOUT HER JOURNEY TO A&M  
AND HOW COMPLETE THIS TEAM IS

## **When did you start playing basketball?**

I started playing when I was four. I had been going to the gym with my dad when he still stayed in Oklahoma City. Then, when I was old enough, I started playing at the Y.

## **Tell me about your path to A&M.**

Actually, I was committed to OU. I came here for a basketball camp that was hosted here. It didn't have anything to do with A&M, it was just here at the facility. I really liked seeing it; I didn't know much about A&M or other Texas schools, except for Texas, with the OU-Texas rivalry. I was really impressed. After it was over, I had talked to Coach Coale (OU Coach) and she had gotten mad; she wasn't happy that I had interest in other schools, and I ended up de-committing. I took a visit to Texas, Oklahoma State, and here. A&M was by far the school I liked the most; the traditions were really big for me. Obviously, they had a really good basketball program, and the top thing would be that the engineering school is really good.

## **Is that what you are studying?**

Computer Science in the Engineering Department. I'm a computer science major and business minor.

## **Tell me about the season so far.**

It's going well. Chemistry is coming along. Not starting with C Wil the first couple of games was tough, but I think we proved to ourselves that while we still have a lot of things we can improve, we were still able to beat DePaul and Duke. I think the upside is that we have things we can improve on but are still getting big wins. We're able to battle adversity together, plus we have a lot of talent, if we can bring it all together.

## **Was the Duke win a big confidence boost for you guys?**

Yeah, I think it was a really important win to get, especially because we were down so much. We showed ourselves that we could do better after the first half was so bad. We walked in the locker room and Coach Starkey said, "That's about as bad as you can play!





“I think it really shows how complete we are, when you think of all the different teams we play and the teams we’re able to beat.”

There’s nowhere to go but up from here!” That really helped us. When we were able to come back and make that 19-4 run, and we got the crowd into it, they were waiting for us to come along with something. It was good to prove why we’re the number five team in the country.

**After beating Duke, there wasn’t a huge celebration. Is that a team you expected to beat?**

Yeah, it was a seven versus eight ranked team, which is as close as you can get, but we were still above them and that’s a win we’re suppose to get. Even if it’s a team above us, we feel that in order to be a top caliber team, we have to expect big wins. We wanted to keep our minds set right, and that’s why we were so disappointed at halftime. We’re suppose to win this game. It didn’t matter how much bigger than us they were, we had advantages the opposite way, and we weren’t taking advantage of them.

**You faced a big team in Duke and a small team in Northwestern State and beat them in two different ways. What does that say about this team?**

I think it really shows how complete we are, when you think of all the different teams we play and the teams we’re able to beat. A lot of credit goes to Coach Starkey’s game plan, as well as to Coach Bond and Coach Wright on the offensive end, and Coach Blair’s offense allowing us to score over, especially with a team like Duke. How do you score, how do you rebound? I mean, you can block out, but they were so much bigger than us that it didn’t even matter. We just needed to find a way to win. We have to really execute the game plan in games like that because it’s easy to get exposed if you’re not blocking out against a team like Duke. That was one of our big points, just blocking out! We can be fast against a smaller team. We’re one of the fastest teams in the

SEC. We can also shoot the ball. We have guards that can shoot the three. We don’t take a lot, but we can get hot! I think it’s important that teams know that they can’t not guard our three-point shooters because we can get hot.

**Which teams are you looking forward to playing this season?**

South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, right now. We just have to keep our heads down and just focus on the next team, with the main goal being to go into SEC play undefeated and win the regular season championship, the tournament. It’s just one step at a time. We still have a lot of improvement to make. Just because of the game we like to play, we’re not always ready to play and we’ll start out slow and then pick it up after halftime, and so we can’t do that. There are a lot of teams that you won’t be able to come back against if you wait too long.





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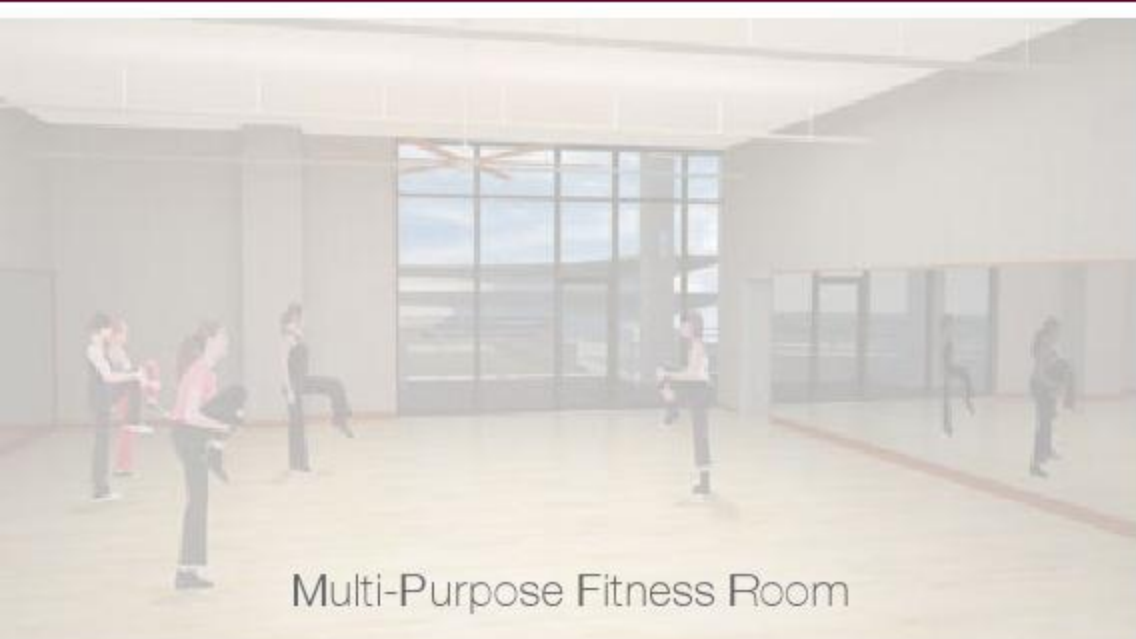
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## Women's Soccer Club

BY ROB HAVENS '88

2014 has been an amazing year for soccer fans in Aggieland, starting with the World Cup hysteria followed by the most successful season in Aggie women's soccer history. There is another group of young ladies that has enjoyed soccer fever this year and generated a lot of success on the field as well: the Texas A&M Sport Clubs women's soccer team. We asked president Catherine Schram about the Sport Clubs soccer program here at Texas A&M.

"We have tryouts at the beginning of the fall semester. Girls on the team typically have past experience in high school, club, etc. I think people join because it's a way to find a really solid group of girls who have grown up doing the same thing you love and have similar mindsets and goals, as well as getting the opportunity to continue playing soccer!" Schram said she joined the team because she grew up playing soccer



and "nothing compares to the bond of a team and the thrill of playing!"

The club's main opponents are Baylor, Texas State, and the University of Texas. This fall the team defeated all three, won the regional championship, and qualified for Nationals, which took place in Memphis, TN. The ladies battled in the tournament, making it into the single-elimination field before coming up just short against Delaware. The match was the ladies' only loss and was decided by penalty kicks to determine the winner. Catherine said, "Making it to Nationals with our only loss being in Memphis is a really huge accomplishment; even though we didn't go all the way, I'm so proud of our performance!"

We asked Catherine what her favorite moment of the year has been, and she told us, "One of the best moments would have to be scoring in the last thirty seconds to win a game at Nationals; such a thrill, and so cool that we pushed until the very end to finish the game strong." Although she says traveling can be exhausting, it's one of her favorite parts because she has the opportunity to make memories and get to know her teammates more and more as the season goes on.

The club doesn't have any direct sponsors. Funds come from players' dues, Texas A&M Rec Sports, and fundraisers and profit shares conducted by the team.

## Men's Soccer Club

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Soccer at A&M is not limited to our women's teams. The men's soccer team has won back-to-back conference championships and recently advanced to the semi-finals of the National Tournament. The club currently consists of fifty members: twenty on the A and B teams and ten on the practice squad.

We asked president Connor Hirt to tell us more about the club. He said, "UT is our main rival. We always play them for our last regular season game,

and it usually decides the conference champion." He told AI that most members have previous experience. "Many players have been playing soccer since they were very young. They love to play soccer and want to continue to play at the next level."

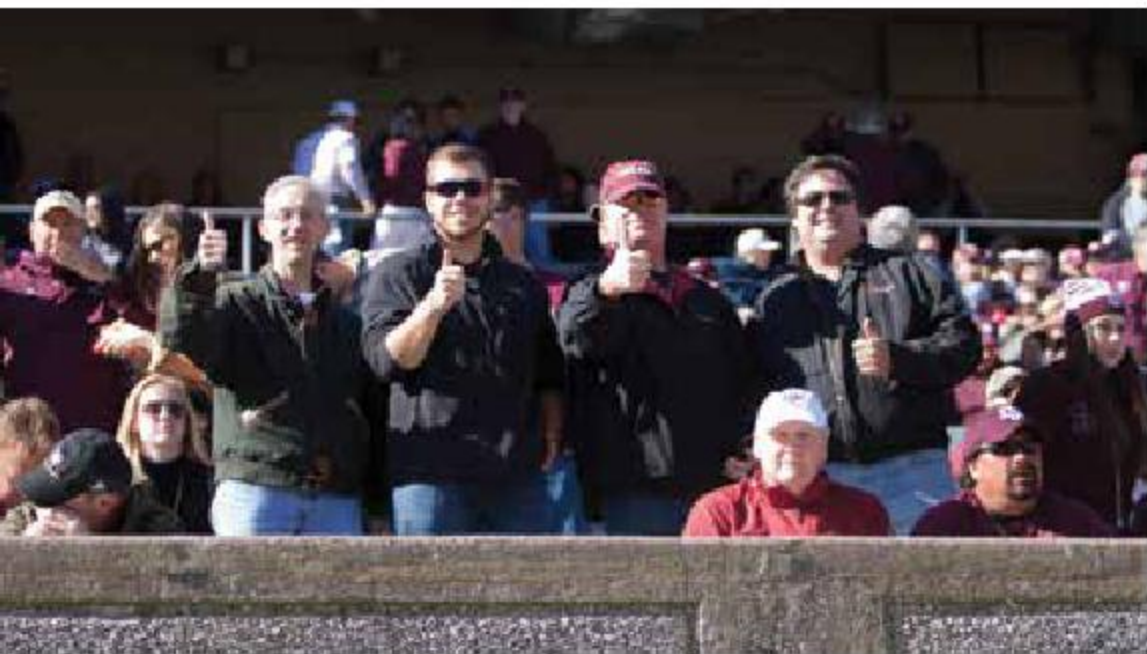
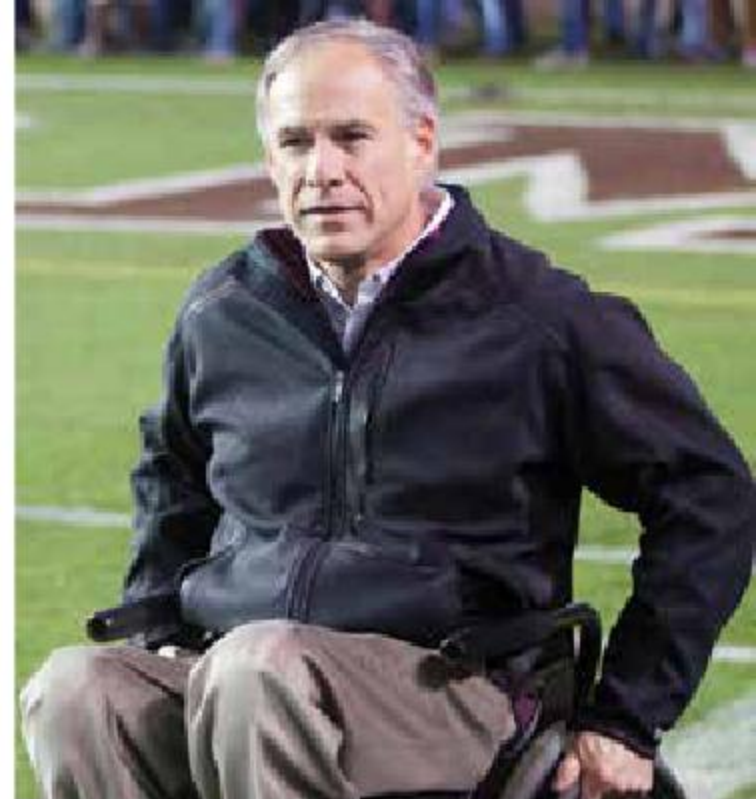
Hirt's favorite moments of this past season were beating Texas in Austin to clinch the conference championship and beating SMU 3-1 to advance to the semi-finals at Nationals. We asked Connor what makes a great soccer player. "A strong work ethic makes a great soccer player. I've seen a lot of

good soccer players at A&M, but the work ethic is what separates the good from the great."

The team practices three times a week in the Fall and two times a week in the Spring. Connor feels like the Ags are the "best club team in the state." He enjoys leading and representing the team as president, but above all, he says, "My favorite thing is that I get to play the sport I love with great teammates. I have made so many friends that I will always be grateful for."









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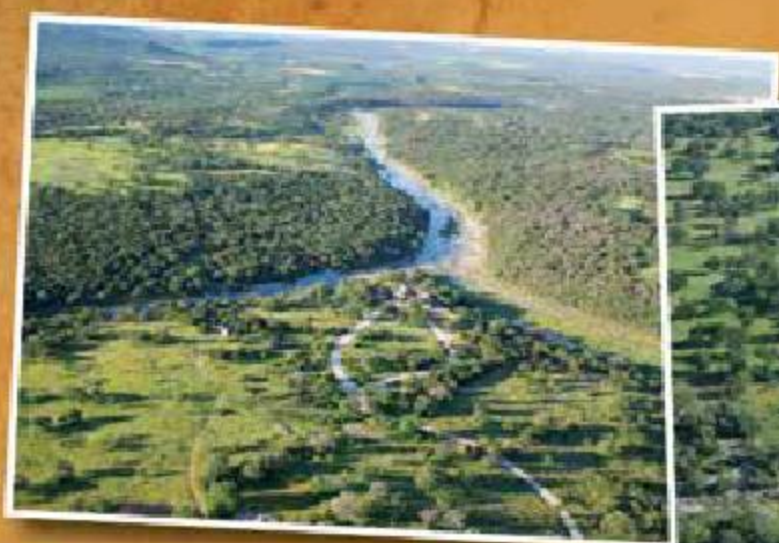


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